The above amendments to the above-captioned application along with the following remarks are being submitted as a full and complete response to the Office Action dated July 11, 2005. In view of the above amendments and the following remarks, the Examiner is respectfully requested to give due reconsideration to this application, to indicate the allowability of the claims, and to pass this case to issue.

Status of the Claims

As outlined above, claims 1 – 19 stand for consideration, wherein claims 1 – 5 are being amended to correct formal errors and to more particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject invention, and new claims 9 – 19 are hereby submitted for consideration. Support for the amendments and the new claims may be found throughout the specification.

Formal Objections or Rejections

The Examiner rejected claims 1-8 under 35 U.S.C. §101 on the grounds that the claims are directed to non-statutory subject matter. As outlined above, the claims have been amended in accordance with the Examiner's requirements and to recite the present invention in a manner consistent with U.S. patent practice for claiming an invention within the technological arts.

Prior Art Rejections

The Examiner rejected claims 1-8 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by US Patent No. 5,937,387 to Summerell. Applicants have reviewed the above-noted rejection, and hereby respectfully traverse.

The present invention as now recited in claim 1 is directed to a health management support method implemented in a computer-based data processing system for generating life expectancy data to be used in a health management system, comprising: providing a database for storing healthy life expectancy prediction data that represents transition of a percentage of normal people in each result of health screening (see Fig. 12, element 88); generating health screening report data for each person who undergoes health screening by data entry means (see Fig. 12, element 86); generating personal healthy life expectancy prediction data by selecting at least one of the healthy life expectancy prediction data based on the inputted health screening report data for a each the person (see Fig. 3, p. 16, line 11 to p. 17, line 6, p. 17,

line 18 – p. 19, line 2); estimating a predicted period of healthy life expectancy of each the person, by calculating based on the selected personal healthy life expectancy prediction data (see p. 19, lines 3-12); and outputting the estimated predicted period of healthy life expectancy of each the person (see Fig. 15, p. 19, line 13 – p. 21, line 15).

Further, the present invention as recited in new claim 9 is directed to a health management support program implemented in software stored on a tangible medium for generating life expectancy data to be used in a health management system, the program comprising the steps of: providing a database for storing healthy life expectancy prediction data that represents transition of a percentage of normal people in each result of health screening (see Fig. 12, element 88); generating health screening report data for each person who undergoes health screening by data entry means (see Fig. 12, element 86); generating personal healthy life expectancy prediction data by selecting at least one of the healthy life expectancy prediction data based on the inputted health screening report data for a each the person (see Fig. 3, p. 16, line 11 to p. 17, line 6, p. 17, line 18 – p. 19, line 2); estimating a predicted period of healthy life expectancy of each the person, by calculating based on the selected personal healthy life expectancy prediction data (see p. 19, lines 3-12); and outputting the estimated predicted period of healthy life expectancy of each the person (see Fig. 15, p. 19, line 13 – p. 21, line 15).

Among the main features of the present invention, the invention allows one's health condition to be quantitatively based on an index of healthy life expectancy and thus offers an index of health in an intuitively and easily understandable expression (see p. 21, line 6 – p. 22, line 10).

In contrast, Summerell '387 discloses a system and method for developing a customized wellness plan for measuring a user's wellness by determining a user's physiological age (see Abstract). The user's physiological age is calculated based on relative risk factors obtained by a health profile questionnaire to the user (see col. 9 lines 32-64, Fig. 30). Further, Summerell '387 discloses that the physiological age is equal to the chronologic age at which the user's survival probability rate of an individual of the same gender (see col. 1, lines 13-29).

When comparing the present invention with the reference, the present invention estimates a person's predicted period of healthy life expectancy which represents that person's life expectancy if he/she maintains a healthy condition physically and mentally (see p. 15, lines 9-17). On the other hand, the physiological age in Summerell '387 only

represents the wellness age <u>at the present</u>. The present invention is distinguishable in that it provides a clearer indication for each person's self-healthcare by estimating how long he/she is in good health. Among other purposes, the results of the present invention are used for predicting medical fees in the future (see p. 21, line 6 – p. 22, line 10, Fig. 1, element 18, Fig. 11).

Based on the above discussion, Applicants will contend that Summerell '387 falls far short of showing or suggesting a method or program that incorporates at least the steps of providing a database for storing healthy life expectancy prediction data that represents <u>transition of a percentage of normal people in each result of health screening</u>; generating <u>personal healthy life expectancy prediction data</u> by selecting at least one of the healthy life expectancy prediction data based on the inputted health screening report data for a each the person; and <u>estimating a predicted period of healthy life expectancy of each the person</u>, by calculating <u>based on the selected personal healthy life expectancy prediction data</u>. As such, this reference can neither anticipate nor render obvious each and every feature of the claimed invention.
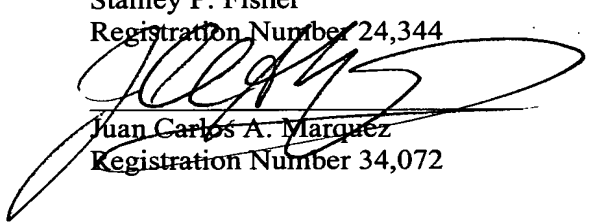
<u>Conclusion</u>

In view of all the above, Applicant respectfully submits that certain clear and distinct differences as discussed exist between the present invention as now claimed and the prior art reference upon which the rejection in the Office Action relies. These differences are more than sufficient that the present invention as now claimed would not have been anticipated nor rendered obvious given the prior art. Rather, the present invention as a whole is distinguishable, and thereby allowable over the prior art.

Favorable reconsideration of this application as amended is respectfully solicited. Should there be any outstanding issues requiring discussion that would further the prosecution and allowance of the above-captioned application, the Examiner is invited to contact the Applicant's undersigned representative at the address and phone number indicated below.

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